

of its medicinal properties. According to the WEALTH OF INDIA — Raw Materials, Vol. X: 57, the leaves are poisonous to man and animals, causing vomiting and inflammation of the mucous membrane of the stomach. But it has been observed that the fresh leaves are used by the people as a palliative for malaria. To prevent vomiting, the hairy part on the veins beneath the leaves, is removed.

The open hillslopes at Parvati hill and Hiranyakeshi were covered with *Nilgirianthus reticulatus*, Bremek (Vern. *Bakara*). During treks through this region on the 26th of September, we saw these plants flowering gregariously. At Hiranyakeshi, some patches were still in bud.

At Amboli, a clear difference in the distribution of the two species was observed. *Carvia callosa* occurred in the forest as an undergrowth species whereas *Nilgirianthus reticulatus* was seen on open hillslopes. On Parvati hill both the species were growing profusely and were in bloom simultaneously,

LAXMI NARAYAN BHUVAN,
G. D. AMBEKAR MARG,
BHOIWADA, PAREL,
BOMBAY - 400 012,
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but nowhere was there overlapping of the two species.

The gregarious flowering of *Carvia callosa* takes place at an interval of 7 or 8 (some local people say 10) years (T. Cooke, FLORA OF BOMBAY, Vol. II: 444), whereas the gregarious flowering of *Nilgirianthus reticulatus* occurs at intervals of about 20 years according to local information. It is necessary to keep records of the gregarious flowering of *Nilgirianthus reticulatus*, as according to Shri M. C. Suryanarayan, *Indian Forester* 96: 850 (1970), 16 years life cycle of *Strobilanthes scrobiculata* Dalz. ex Clarke, is the longest among the group Strobilanthinae.

Fr. H. Santapau in his note (1950, *JBNHS*, 49: 320) sought the help of readers in India to observe various species of *Strobilanthes* and report their gregarious flowering. It may be of interest therefore to put down these notes on two different species which have been observed in bloom this year.

I am grateful to Shri M. R. Almeida for confirming the identification of the plants.

ULHAS RANE

37. *PTERIS SCABRIPES* WALL. EX HOOK. —
A NEW FIND FROM INDIA

In course of the revisionary study on the genus of *Pteris* from India, I located a specimen collected by W. G. Craib from Haflong, North Cachar, Assam, housed in CAL herbarium. After careful examination, it is found that it is exactly identical with *Pteris scabripes* Wall. ex Hook., described from Malay Peninsula. This note gives first report

of this species from India. Full description is provided in this paper.

Pteris scabripes Wall. (Cat. N. 94, 1828) ex Hook. Spec. Fil. 2: 165, 1858; Holttum, Fern. Malay 2: 399, 1954.

Rhizome erect, sparsely scaly, stipe tufted, purple, 20 to 40 cm long, longest in fertile frond. Frond has a terminal pinnae and 2-3

pairs of lateral pinnae, lateral pinnae similar to apical pinnae. Sterile pinnae 15 cm-18 cm long, 3 cm to 3.5 cm broad, sessile, apex of pinnae 10 cm to 15 cm long, 8 mm to 12 cm broad, apex acuminate, texture coriaceous, veins forked at base, parallel, midrib raised

on upper surface and grooved; sori continuous along the edges of fertile pinnae except apices of pinnae; spores brown, tetrahedral.

Specimen examined:

Haflong, 800 m, North Cachar, Assam, 24 Aug. 1908, *W. G. Craib* 425 (CAL-8067).

CRYPTOGAMIC SECTION,
BOTANICAL SURVEY OF INDIA,
P.O. BOTANIC GARDEN,
HOWRAH - 711 103,
WEST BENGAL,
April 22, 1982.

S. R. GHOSH

38. STUDIES IN LEGUMINOSAE XXX — FURTHER CONTRIBUTIONS TO *DALBERGIA* L. F. AND *DERRIS* LOUR.

(With three text-figures)

INTRODUCTION

Critical examination of the Indian and Burmese specimens of *Dalbergia* L. f. and *Derris* Lour. in the Herbarium, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, has enabled me to supplement the taxonomy and distribution of a few species. ***Derris elliptica*** (Wall.) Benth.

This is the only species of economic importance in the genus and is renowned as the 'Tuba root of Commerce'. Rotenone, extracted from the roots, is extensively used as an insecticide. The species is known wild so far from Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Java, Sumatra, Philippines and New Guinea. In India, it is only cultivated for the 'Tuba root'. Thothathri (1976) reported its wild occurrence in the Great Nicobar Island. *D. elliptica* var. *chittagongensis* Thoth., originally described from Chittagong, Bangladesh, has also been reported in India from Assam (Thothathri 1960). Recently I examined a collection (Fig.

1) from Rattenpur, Cachar District, Assam, which also proved to be *D. elliptica* and the first record of var. *elliptica* wild in India. Future intensive explorations in eastern India may extend its distribution further.

A climber. Branches lenticellate, glabrous. Leaves up to 40 cm long; leaflets 9, 13-16 x 5-6 cm, lower pair always smaller than upper, leaflets oblong to obovate-oblong, entire, narrowed at base, acute to shortly acuminate at apex, coriaceous, puberulous below; lateral veins 10-12 pairs, ascending; petiolules grooved above, 5-8 mm long. *Infructescence* incomplete, rachis 22 cm long, glabrous, main peduncle 6-9 mm long, each bearing 2-3 stalked pods; stalks 8-10 mm long, peduncles and stalks glabrous to puberulous. *Pods* oblong, 6.5-10.0 x 2.5-3.0 cm, distinctly winged along the upper suture with a narrow wing on the lower suture, narrowed at base, obtuse at apex, faintly reticulated, puberulous, 1-2-seeded.

INDIA: Assam, Cachar, Rattenpore, 1873, *Maneek* for *R. Keeman* (K).